

Week 14

THE DEITY OF JESUS

Why is it important to know that Jesus is the Virgin born Son of God? Because this is the foundation for understanding the Deity of Jesus.

Scriptures for today's study will be found in John 5, Isaiah 7:14, John 1: 1-4. Luke 1:35, Romans 6:23, Hebrews 9:22b, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 1:3-8, Revelation 5:6-10, John 3:18, Colossians 1:13, John 3:17. Philippians 2:9-11

Soon after the Sabbath healing of the paralyzed man (described in John 5) Jesus faced an type of inquest regarding the accusation of Him breaking the Sabbath, which was a capital offense. The remainder of the 5th chapter of John is a discourse in which Jesus patiently explains to these Jewish leaders Who He is. So it's important to understand the virgin birth as we study what Jesus told about Himself.

Beginning in Isaiah 7:14; The LORD Himself will give you a sign: "Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son and she will call His name Immanuel". This prophecy was given 500 to 600 years before Jesus was born. Notice it was a sign for all of us.

Why is it important to our discussion today to understand that Jesus was born of a virgin? Because you and I need to know He did not have a sin nature since He was not fathered by Joseph but by God. Only if He is virgin born can He be the One to save us from our sin and make eternal life in heaven possible.

Jesus is Divine, 100% God, not an angel, John 1, if you remember in our study says; In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. Jesus, eternal, infinite, all powerful. John 1:2 He was in the beginning with God. John 1:3 All things came into being through Jesus, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

Our God is a Trinity. There are three Persons, all equal but with different roles. God the Father is the administrative head, God the Son, is the Word, spoken and written, God the spirit is the Power of God.

Turn to Luke 1, you will have heard this read a number of times this past month, so let's focus on verse 35: The angel told Mary she would have a baby and Mary's response was, how can this happen since I am not married. The angel then said to Mary, v35 "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God."

Until this time, Jesus was not a human, He was divine only. The Holy Spirit placed Jesus in the womb of Mary, Jesus humanity was conceived in Mary. Since He did not have a human father, he did not have a sin nature. He was 100% God and 100% Man.

Be careful not to confuse nature with role. Remember, God the Father is the administrative head-He planned salvation. Jesus, the Son, the Word, provided salvation, the Holy Spirit applies Salvation. In nature or essence the 3 persons of the Trinity are equal, their roles are different.

Romans 6:23 says the wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our LORD".

Death is our fate because of our sin. How can the sin of mankind be forgiven since Hebrews 9:22b says, "Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin"? Man can offer the blood of bulls and goats but man can never offer the perfect sacrifice for sin. There are no good works, rituals or traditions that grant forgiveness. How can there be the perfect sacrifice for sin? A perfect man must die. God cannot die since He is a Spirit. The only way God can die is if He becomes human. Thus the Virgin birth.

Jesus is the only One Who could die for our sin because He is the perfect Man, conceived without sin, and He kept the Law perfectly.

2 Corinthians 5:21 "God made Him, Jesus, Who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" How did this happen? The Law says, "Cursed is anyone who hangs on a tree. Deuteronomy 22:23-24. He was hanged on a tree (cross) with my sin and yours as His own. The awful wrath that came on Him was yours and mine, He took it for us and He died. His resurrection proves His victory over it.

Now turn to Hebrews the first chapter.

Let's hear what God the Father has to say on the subject of Jesus.

1:3 And He (Jesus) is the radiance of His glory and the EXACT representation of His nature and upholds all things by the word of His power.

This is saying that God created the universe through Jesus and you and I are totally dependent on Jesus speaking sustaining or upholding words in the universe.

V5 for to which of the angels did God ever say: "You are My Son, today have I begotten you-virgin birth-And again, I will be a Father to Him (Jesus) and He will be a Son to Me. Only begotten Son. Jesus is not an angel. Jesus and Lucifer are not equal. Jesus is God

V6 And when He (God) brings the firstborn in the world He says, "And let all the angels of God worship Him". (Jesus)

If you believe Jesus is a created being or an angel, or just a good man, then you do not believe the scriptures, you have put something else above the clear teaching of God, and you are in error.

Hebrews 1:8

Of the Son He (God) says:

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever

V10 "You Lord, (God is still speaking to Jesus) in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Your hands.

Lastly, lets peek into a scene in heaven that God has revealed to us through John, the author of Revelation.

Revelation 5:6-10, You see in this passage Jesus, the Lamb of God, being worshipped in heaven.

Do you see why it is important to know Jesus is Divine and why it is important to know without a shadow of a doubt that He was virgin born? Only a perfect Man can be the sacrifice for sin. Only a Man without a sin nature can be a perfect Man. Only a virgin born perfect man can meet all the criteria required by God to save us from our sin. Jesus is 100% Man, He is 100% God, this is the clear teaching of the bible and any other teaching is not scriptural and is cultic. All cults have this in common, they do not believe in the deity of Jesus.

It is important that you understand Who Jesus is.

All this is an introduction to the mid part of John 5 where we see Jesus explaining to the Jewish leaders who He came to save, Who He is. It seems absurd that this Man Who is God, is on trial for breaking a law made by weak and foolish men. However, it is an example of God's mercy toward men that He even spends time with them.

We begin our study with verse 19;5:19-20

Jesus did not say He would not do anything independent from the Father but that He cannot, because they are of one Spirit.

The Greater works are described in verse 21

These works are the Son's ability to give life to the dead and to execute judgment. This statement would have been shocking to His audience because it ascribes work to the Son-Jesus-that was seen by them as exclusively the work of God, that is reversing death.

Look at Philippians 2:9-11

There will be many on the last day who tragically will recognize the truth about Jesus but will have lost the opportunity to receive His salvation. Those who refuse to honor the Son in life will find that they have never honored the Father either. How can you say you believe in God and not believe the Son He sent to save you? The believer does not come under judgment; the non-believer does come under judgment, the decision we make about Jesus now has eternal consequences.

Remember we saw in John 3:18 that God has already judged this world, so belief in Jesus provides the only escape from that judgment. For those of us who believe, Colossians 1:13 says God has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves.
V25

This has two meanings; those who are spiritually dead hear His voice and are born again, they are made alive in the spirit. There will be a time in the future when all the physically dead will be resurrected to judgment or reward. In addition, Jesus had the power at that point and still does to raise the physically dead.

I am so thankful that when I was spiritually dead, I heard His voice and passed out of spiritual death into life. Eternal life is my present possession.

I have been saved from the penalty of sin, I am being saved from the power of sin and I will be saved from the presence of sin.

Reviewing we see that Jesus claimed to be equal with God 5:18, to be the source of life 5:26, and to judge sin 5:27. This is clear claim to divinity. Then He called upon several witnesses to His divine being

- 1 John the Baptist
- 2 The scriptures
- 3 The works
- 4 The Father Himself
- 5 Moses

Any of these supply compelling witness to His testimony but his listeners had hard hearts.

Why was this discussion about witnesses important? God gave a number of guidelines in the OT regarding the statement of witnesses, how many were needed and what their role would be in bringing judgments.

Friends, if there is any doubt in your mind about the Deity of Jesus Christ, please email me to discuss this issue. It is a matter of life and death to you. You can reach me at kellymallorywzlp@gmail.com. To recognize Jesus is to realize His divine origin, His virgin birth and His finished work on the cross. Thus to believe in Jesus is to believe in the one Who sent Him; to reject Jesus is to reject the sender, God.